

## Subdivisions Booming in Other Cities

Why Not Here in Torrance?  
 By GROVER C. WHYTE

It seems that new subdivisions and housing projects are springing up everywhere throughout the Southland—except at Torrance.

"Residential subdivisions in Los Angeles county reached a peak in August. Thirty-four new projects were started, these being scattered uniformly throughout the county," reports Clarence Urban, state real estate commissioner, in a statement this week.

"In nearly every instance, the new tracts will be improved with homes before being sold," the state commissioner added. "The greater part of these projects will consist of medium and low cost homes to meet the current demand. Improvements are financed by the Federal Housing Authority thru its cooperating institutions and by loans direct from local financial institutions.

"This record number of new projects indicates better business conditions," commented Urban. "Only when persons working in the lower income brackets are assured of steady employment will they venture an investment in a new home. The subdivision business for the coming winter months looks extremely favorable."

You're dead right, Mr. State Commissioner. And we only hope that our Chamber of Commerce will carry the message of Torrance to the folks who will be doing the subdividing and building. Certainly few communities offer greater opportunities for the investor in new home subdivisions, if we can only get that information to the right parties.

Latest reports of the Chamber's housing "drive" is that the secretary is still gathering information for his portfolio and is awaiting reports from certain owners of large land holdings. We know it takes time to get this data together, but we do hope that the Chamber secretary will not wait until all folks with money to invest in new home projects have found other locations for their money.

Did you notice the list of building permit totals in last Sunday's Los Angeles newspapers showing the amount of new construction in August? Torrance — and shame on us! — was 53rd on the list. We were far surpassed by such towns as Gardena, Bell, El Monte, Oxnard, Maywood, Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, Compton, Lynwood, Arcadia and many others that have much less to offer in the way of substantial payrolls, attractive civic buildings, and other features that make investments secure and life enjoyable in Torrance.

Let's not allow the housing "drive" to lag. Let's keep up the effort until we get the building ball rolling. And if there are any snags in the road, let's clear them out of the way too. The important thing is to get MORE HOUSES FOR THE FOLKS WHO WANT TO LIVE IN AND NEAR THEIR WORK IN TORRANCE.

## City Officials at San Diego Meet

City Clerk A. H. Bartlett and Councilman George V. Powell were left in charge of the city's affairs this week while eight other civic leaders were attending the annual League of California Cities' convention in San Diego.

In the Torrance delegation, which is scheduled to return today, were Mayor Tom F. McGuire, Councilman John V. Murray, James Hitchcock and Vern Babcock, City Attorney John E. McCall, Acting City Engineer Glenn Jain, City Treasurer Harriett Leach and Street Superintendent William Gascolgne.

## G.O.P. Nominee Speaks Tonight at L. A. Coliseum



WENDELL WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie will be seen and heard by more Southern Californians than any other presidential nominee who has visited the Southland in recent years, officials of the civic reception committee declared today. From the time his airplane landed at March Field yesterday until he concludes a visit to the Frontier Days celebration in Bakersfield Friday, Willkie is to address scores of gatherings.

The largest affair arranged in his honor is the rally at the Los Angeles Coliseum tonight. It is expected that 110,000 persons will fill the bowl. Arrangements have been completed for large delegations from other counties to attend the affair, which will commence at 6 p. m. with an entertainment program to continue until Willkie arrives. On entering the Coliseum the automobile bearing Willkie will circle the stadium slowly so that all in attendance may get a close-up view of the G.O.P. leader. It is expected his address will be one of the most important of the presidential campaign.

Following an old-fashioned torchlight parade in San Diego last night, the Republican nominee today traveled by automobile through Seal Beach, Long Beach, Compton, Lynwood, Gardena, Huntington Park, El Segundo, Lennox, Inglewood and sections of Los Angeles, the trip climaxed by a welcoming ceremony on the part of officials shortly after noon at the Los Angeles City Hall.

## Petty Thieves Loot Valued at \$152 in 3 Jobs

Three robberies were investigated by local police during the past week. They totaled \$152.25. Two cars were broken into and the cash drawer of the Consolidated Lumber company at 1826 213th street was robbed by a "prospective customer" when Al Greiner went into the warehouse to complete the man's "order" last Thursday afternoon.

A well-dressed man about 35 years old appeared at the lumber office stating he wanted to duplicate an order he placed recently and while Greiner was out to look up the material, the stranger slipped up all of the cash in sight, \$32.25, and left. Mechanics tools, valued at \$60, were reported stolen from J. R. Beard's auto while it was parked at the city base-ball diamond parking area last Thursday night. Beard is a resident of Taft, he told police.

Robert G. Heslop of Pasadena told officers his car was broken into at Torrance beach early Sunday morning and a wrist watch, trench coat, hat and pocketbook containing 85 cents in change was stolen. He valued his belongings at \$60.

## Another Mattoon Refunding Asked

Refunding of the outstanding bonded indebtedness in A. and I. #24, formed for the improvement of Western avenue thru the Gardena district, has been requested of the board of supervisors.

No allocation of public funds was requested by the petitioning property owners, who desire to have specific assessments levied against each parcel of land, instead of a lump assessment against all parcels in the district, under the old Mattoon Act.

Refunding proceedings will be studied by the county counsel's office and a recommendation made to the supervisors shortly.

Deaths by accident in the United States in 1939 were estimated at 93,000.

## Plans for Draft Registrations Are Made Locally

Preparations are already under way in Torrance, Lomita and Harbor City for registering all male citizens for military service between the ages of 21 thru 35 years of age, who are required by law to register between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. on Oct. 16. Local election board officials are being asked in letters being prepared by order of the board of supervisors to facilitate without compensation at their local precincts on that date.

Leading local citizens, whose patriotism is recognized generally and who stand high in public esteem, are being picked to serve on the draft board covering this area. A clerk, who will be the only paid member of the local draft board, is now being selected.

The supervisors acted after hearing Adjutant General R. E. Middlestadt, who stated that "everything was now ready to go" in the selective draft registration. Preliminary work in that connection has been done by Superior Judge Peirson Hall, former Federal district attorney, during the past four or five months, Middlestadt said.

No National Holiday  
 Supervisor Gordon McDonough raised the question of whether persons who customarily receive rent from the county for having voting precincts in their homes will be asked to donate this space for the day. Hall and Middlestadt said that was their understanding, and that several offers already had been received by telephone.

It will require about 10 minutes to register each man, on a form to be provided by the government. Not more than 100 will report to any one precinct, it was estimated. Hours have been announced as from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m., in order to give employed persons the opportunity to register after working hours. Oct. 16 will not be a national holiday, the President has announced.

Use of tables, a few chairs, pen and ink, most of which will be provided by the county registrar of voters department, is all that will be required in each precinct.

Character training is being stressed by teachers following instructions issued by Superintendent Vierling Kersey and vocational education in the high school is certain to attain a new high. More than 50 boys applied for the aircraft sheet metal course being offered there for the first time under direction of Ivan Grigsby.

## Legal Check On Bond Refunding to Cost \$6,169

A \$6,169 legal fee is recommended for passing on the legality of the refunding proceedings in connection with Alondra Park A. and I. district No. 28, the largest refunding proceeding yet attempted by the board of supervisors. The fee was recommended by County Counsel J. H. O'Connor this week and is the largest recommended thus far.

O'Melveny and Myers, a long-established Los Angeles legal firm which has passed on the other refunding district proceedings, is scheduled to receive the fee, and the task will be the most complicated so far, O'Connor said. The fee will be one percent of the outstanding bond principal, which now is \$616,961.20.

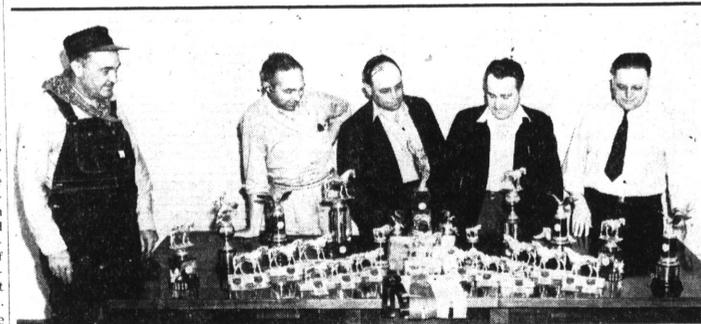
Before buyers will purchase refunding bonds, and before most bond houses will deal in them, it is customary to have the opinion of competent legal authority as to the validity of all proceedings, and the O'Melveny and Myers firm has established itself in this particular field, it was explained to the county supervisors.

Original total of bonds issued against the property in the district was \$1,014,961.20, of which approximately \$500,000 has been paid by the property owners. No fee is to be paid to the legal firm unless the refunding of the bonds is actually completed, under a clause recommended by O'Connor's office.

## Two Torrance Wells Reported Abandoned

Indicating further decline of the Torrance oil field, two more wells here have been abandoned, it was learned this week. At 236th and Pennsylvania streets, Del Amo Oil has given up its Denbo No. 11 and Natural Resources Development Company has abandoned its Torrance No. 1 in the same area.

## Frolic Parade "Jewelry" on Display



LOOK OVER FROLIC PARADE TROPHIES . . . Five members of the Factory Frolic parade committee in charge of the big procession that will wind thru the business district of Torrance Saturday afternoon, Sept. 28, are shown above admiring the 24 major trophies and many of the medals to be awarded entries. They are, from left to right: M. J. "Curley" Brumbley, parade chairman in official Factory Frolic costume; Edwin Bird, Vern Babcock, Robert Lewellen and L. J. Gilmeister, general chairman of the entire three-day celebration that begins Thursday, Sept. 26.

## Schools Enroll 2,125 First Day; Nite Classes Open

Altho elementary schools in Torrance reported a smaller first day attendance than on the opening day of the 1939-40 term, 89 more students enrolled at Torrance high school Monday than was reported for the beginning of the last term. The total opening day enrollment this week was 2,125 as compared with 2,171 last year.

After the first day, the schools swung into the business of education on regular schedules and today teachers reported that the annually-anticipated "vacation slackness" had about worn off and the youngsters are in deep in their studies. This year, school has an added meaning to the boys and girls. They are getting more intensive instruction in Americanism and loyalty to their country.

Character training is being stressed by teachers following instructions issued by Superintendent Vierling Kersey and vocational education in the high school is certain to attain a new high. More than 50 boys applied for the aircraft sheet metal course being offered there for the first time under direction of Ivan Grigsby.

New Teachers Listed  
 Twenty-five were accepted to start the course and others were placed on the waiting list. Principal Thomas Elson said the course may be expanded to accommodate those desiring to take it. Grigsby, who worked this summer in an aircraft plant to learn details of the new instruction, is continuing his education in it by attending Frank Wiggins Trade School every afternoon to keep abreast of new developments.

## Only One Week Left to Register for Nov. General Election

Widespread interest throughout Southern California in the forthcoming November election was apparent today when it was indicated registration would reach an all time high.

Thursday, Sept. 26 is the deadline for registering. Registered voters regardless of party affiliation may vote for any candidate of any party at the November general election, as the names of all candidates of all parties appear on the same ballot. Citizens eligible to register have lived in the state for one year, in the county 90 days and in the same precinct 30 days prior to an election.

Applications for absentee ballots for those who will be away on Nov. 5 may be made at either the county clerk or county registrar's office during the 15-day period, Oct. 16 to 31.

## School Buses Robbed of Lights, Seat, Gas

Sometime after 3 o'clock last Friday afternoon, the school buses parked at the elementary school were entered and two fog lights, a cushion and 40 gallons of gasoline stolen, according to a belated report given police here Monday by I. V. Thorpe, investigator for the Los Angeles city school system.

## First Day School Enrollments

School	Monday	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935
Torrance High	827	738	840	751	671	692
Torrance Elementary	778	864	733	729	625	707
Fern Street	290	296	292	307	288	280
Walteria	105	125	115	134	142	133
Perry School	125	148				
Torrance Total	2,125	2,171	1,980	1,921	1,726	1,812

SCHOOLS IN LOMITA TERRITORY	Monday	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935
Narbonne High	1,050	1,060	1,035	996	949	887
Lomita Elementary	408	420	425	423	420	414
Orange Street	340	345	360	340	355	333
Harbor City	270	299	337			
Lomita Totals	2,068	2,124	2,157	1,759	1,724	1,634
District Total	4,193	4,295	4,137	3,680	3,450	3,446

## Two Registrars Qualify Voters for Nov. Election

Two deputy registrars are working in Torrance to qualify voters for the Nov. 5 general election. They are Mrs. Floy G. Morris of 2163 237th street and Mrs. Leona P. Lincoln of 1027 North Arlington avenue. Registration closes at midnight next Thursday, Sept. 26.

The registrars point out that voters must re-register if they have moved since last registering, even if in their own precinct and also if they failed to vote at the last general election or the August primary. Mrs. Lincoln received the following information this week from Registrar of Voters William E. Kerr:

"We have had a number of complaints from election boards in Torrance, saying that voters did not receive their sample ballots. Upon investigation, it was found that they had moved and in that case their sample ballot naturally would not reach them. In a case where they moved out of the precinct, they would lose their vote altogether if they did not re-register for their new address before registration closing date. But when they move to an address in the same precinct, ballot will not reach them if we do not have their correct mailing address."

## Truck-Car Crash Injures Resident

A Ford coupe, driven by Paul Tanks, 28, of 720 Border avenue, was carried nearly 45 feet on the front of a loaded oil tank truck following a collision late last Thursday afternoon at the intersection of 182nd street and Arlington avenue, according to police reports.

Tanks was seriously injured and is confined at Torrance Memorial hospital. The truck was being driven east on 182nd by Ed L. Grigsby of Gardena, while Tanks was driving south on Arlington. No court citations were issued following investigation of the crossing crash, police said.

## TREMOR FELT

Windows rattled to the tune of a minor earth tremor Tuesday night here and in Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan Beach districts. No damage was reported.

## Charity Chest Donations Up to \$654 Here

Contributions to the \$2,200 fund being raised here by the Torrance Community Service Association for the welfare and relief of local needy families, continuation of the WPA Sewing Project, assistance to people by the Torrance Relief Society, totaled \$654 this week, according to Postmaster Earl Conner, campaign chairman.

Donations to the Torrance Charity Chest fund are being received at both local banks, Chamber of Commerce and Postmaster Conner. The campaign will continue until the goal is reached but Conner urges all residents and firms to contribute as soon as possible in order to bring the canvass to an early close.

Contributors to date include: John A. Shidler, United Concrete Pipe Company, Columbia Broadcasting Company, Rubbercraft Corporation, Dietzle Company, Roi Tan Pool Hall, Harvel's, Howard G. Locke, Hydral Company and Drs. Harrison and Laughon.

Torrance Lumber Company, Drs. Beeman and Easley, Chancellor-Field Midway Oil Company, Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, George Beidler, Columbia Steel Company, National Business and Professional Women's Club, Roberts Public Market, Torrance Herald and the National Home Appliance.

## Local Men Leave for Far Pacific Islands to Work on Air Bases

Bound for a year's work on Midway and Guam Island, where a syndicate of construction companies is building air bases for the U. S. Government, several Torrance men left this week for the first leg of their long journey across the Pacific.

John Husband, 1808 Gramercy, Francis Buckman and possibly others from here departed Monday night for San Francisco where a contingent of several hundred workers embarked on the Navy transport Burrow yesterday for the far Pacific outposts.

All but about \$20 of their monthly pay while in the islands is to be deposited in banks of their own choice here, it is understood. The \$20 may be expended by the men at the companies' commissaries on the project. Husband signed on as an electrician's helper. Other Torrance men are expected to leave in additional contingents.

## FROLIC EVENTS ALL READY FOR FESTIVE WEEK

Bigger and better than ever, the third annual Torrance Factory Frolic begins bright and early next Monday morning when residents should don their official costume for the week—overalls, work-shirts, bandannas and work caps for men, sprightly red, white and blue aprons for women. The community celebration, to which everyone in the Harbor District is invited, will start next Thursday, Sept. 26, and continue for three jam-packed days and nights of entertainment, fun and sports events.

## Here's Program For Your Frolic

Following is the tentative program for the third annual Torrance Factory Frolic, starting next Thursday, Sept. 26:

**MONDAY, SEPT. 23**  
 Everyone starts wearing the official Factory Frolic costume—overalls, blue work shirts, bandannas and work caps for men; red, white and blue aprons for women. The aprons may be obtained for 35 cents each at the J. C. Penney store, Torrance Gift Shop on Sartori avenue, Kosy Knackery on Torrance boulevard and Chamber of Commerce. They have been made by the Women of the Moose. Red, white and blue ribbon streamers may be obtained free at the Chamber of Commerce.

Sale of tickets for the Saturday, Sept. 28, barbecue dinner in El Prado park begins by the American Legion Auxiliary at Baker Smith's jewelry store and Chamber of Commerce. Meal tickets are 50 cents each.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25**  
 10 a. m.—Entries will be received at 1334 El Prado (next to The Herald office) for the Arts, Crafts and Hobby show.  
 2 p. m.—Judging begins at the Arts, Crafts and Hobby show. In addition to the adult exhibits and demonstrations, there will be a juvenile department, in charge of Miss Ada Chase and Mrs. E. E. Banks. First, second and third award certificates and jars of candy will be given winners in: Art Work, Handicraft, Collections in two sections—up to 12 years old and 12 to 16 years. Juvenile exhibitors must bring their displays to 1334 El Prado Wednesday before 5 p. m.

Tickets for Saturday barbecue dinner in El Prado park on sale at 50 cents each at Baker Smith's jewelry store and Chamber of Commerce.  
**THURSDAY, SEPT. 26**  
 10 a. m.—Arts, Crafts and Hobby Show opens at 1334 El Prado. Admission is free.  
 10:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.—Horseshoe Pitching Contest begins. Continues all three days of Frolic at vacant lot, corner of El Prado and Cravens. Prizes: singles, doubles, high score 50 shoes for men and women.  
 12 noon All concessions on El Prado open and operating.  
 2 to 4 p. m.—"Hobbies in Action" at 1334 El Prado. Some of the demonstrations will be: Flower Arrangement by Mrs. I. C. Rous and Mrs. J. H. Craig, Weaving by Mrs. Perry G. Briney, Needlepoint by Mrs. Mina

(Continued on Page 6-A)

Other features, in addition to an entire block (El Prado between Cravens and Sartori avenues) given over to more than 25 concession stands, will be the big parade Saturday afternoon, Sept. 28, starting at 1 o'clock. Leo Carrillo, noted motion picture player, will be grand marshal. This will have eight bands, three drum and bugle corps, nearly 200 horses, five drill teams, two marching units, more than 30 floats and scores of other features.

Many Free Pleasures  
 Another three-star attraction will be the community barbecue in El Prado park, prepared by famed Chef Frank J. Romero. Service of the dinner, direct from a huge pit on the vacant lot on the northwest corner of El Prado and Cravens will begin at 2:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon and continue until late that evening.

There will be dancing in the Civic Auditorium to different orchestras, Stuart Hamblen and His Covered Wagon Jubilee on Thursday night, Garwood Van's "hot" band on Friday night and Jim Bellie and His Chevaliers Saturday night. There will be seven different sports events open to entrants from 12 to 18 months of age for the amusing "Maamma-Papa-Baby Marathon" to golf pitching and horseshoe pitching for adults.

## Rotary District Governor Making Official Visit at Local Club Tonite

Officers and members of the Torrance Rotary club will welcome James K. Ingham, district governor, at the dinner-meeting tonight in the American Legion clubhouse. Ingham, who is in the insurance business in his hometown in Pasadena, will be making his official visit to the local club.

He will meet with President George Peckham, Secretary William H. Bratton and other members of the club to consult with them and advise on matters relating to Rotary administration and service activities. Following the dinner-meeting Ingham will continue his conference with the officers, directors, committee chairman and other members of the club at Peckham's residence.

Ingham was elected district governor of the 1940 Rotary convention in Havana, Cuba, during June, and will continue to serve until the 1941 convention in Denver. The 5,000 Rotary clubs of more than 60 countries of the world are grouped into 149 Districts. The 107th District, of which the Rotary club of Torrance is a part, consists of 49 clubs located in the immediate vicinity of Los Angeles, Inyo



JAMES K. INGHAM  
 county and Clark county in Nevada and has a membership of more than 2,500 Rotarians. Mrs. James Ingham, wife of the governor, will be honor guest at a dinner this evening given by Mrs. William Bratton at her home on Post avenue. Twelve ladies, all wives of local Rotarians, have been invited.